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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

December 11, 2002 ♦ **WEDNESDAY**

No bubbly

The Panther basketball team fails to pull off an upset of Illinois in Champaign.

Page 12 SPORTS



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

English professors Carol Dudley and Ray Walkins talk to each other during Tuesday's faculty union rally in front of Old Main. Dudley said, "If we don't stand up now, the students will suffer later."

UPI rally for 'good faith'

♦ *Faculty and staff want higher pay, smaller classes, honest administration*

By John Chambers
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

Eastern's chapter of the University Professionals of Illinois held its final rally Tuesday before federal mediator Jerry Carmichael meets with the administrative's negotiating team and the UPI Wednesday.

Faculty and staff chanted at the Old Main building for good faith in the present negotiations, ongoing for nine months.

"We want an end to the delays. Not a whole lot has happened since August," said UPI president David Radavich. "We want the mediator to work. This really eats away at university life."

He said the administration's negotiating team has used a pattern of delay by withholding information, especially about the university budget, crucial to negotiations, which prompted the UPI to file an unfair labor practice charge with the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board last Thursday.

"The budget doesn't show everything," he said. "For instance, it has (interim President) Lou Hencken's salary, but it doesn't have housing costs or entertainment costs."

Radavich said a settlement could be reached

SEE RALLY ♦ Page 7



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Members of University Professionals of Illinois stand outside of Old Main on Tuesday afternoon during their final rally. A federal mediator will be on campus today during negotiations between the faculty and administration.

IBHE suggests a \$2.7 billion budget proposal

♦ *Recommendations include \$7.2 million for Doudna Fine Arts Center*

By Caitlin Prendergast
SENIOR REPORTER

Every item on the Illinois Board of Higher Education's budget recommendations for next year passed Tuesday at the the board's meeting in Chicago, including an almost 5 percent increase in spending funds for fiscal year 2004.

However, representatives from Eastern said the generous recommendations were not cause to celebrate just yet.

Interim President Lou Hencken said, after returning from the IBHE's meeting, that passing the recommendations is important to the governor and the General Assembly to let them know where funds should go if any new dollars do come in.

The IBHE approved a proposed budget of \$2.7 billion for institutions of higher education which, if approved by Governor-elect Rod Blagojevich and a newly-elected general assembly, would go into effect July 1, 2003, Hencken said.

If the budget is passed by the legislative bodies, Eastern would be better off than it has been in two years, but a "looming threat" of a mid-year recision still remains.

The recommended budget is always subject to change.

"Daniel LaVista, executive director of the IBHE, referred to it as 'the budget of the moment,'" Hencken said. "It's what we need to keep our heads above water."

"It's what we need to keep our heads above water."

—Lou Hencken

All of the recommendations are a "wish list," said Les Hyder, chair of the journalism department and Eastern's representative to the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council.

The budget recommendations include a 2 percent salary increase for faculty and staff who were denied a raise this year, as well as \$37.7 million for the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to restore last year's financial aid cuts because of increased tuition around the state, an IBHE news release stated.

The amount recommended for the capital budget fund is \$341.8 million, which will facilitate borrowed money for 31 projects at public universities and community colleges, also was approved. This fund will project \$30 million for repair and renovation projects at each of these institutions, the news release stated.

Three of the 31 recommended projects are improvements at Eastern, Hencken said.

The third project on IBHE's list recommends \$4.2 million to redo the campus electrical system in an effort to reduce power losses, followed by number four, which would allow \$1.5 million for equipment in the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

A recommendation of another \$1.5 million to continue Eastern's chilled water loop expansion a

SEE IBHE ♦ Page 7

Student rolls up sleeves to help impoverished nation

♦ *Haiti Connection president works to bring clean water*

By Leslie O'Neil
STAFF WRITER

Frances Nelms, a senior early childhood education major, even after combating an unsanitary water problem in Haiti, can't wait to return to the Caribbean nation.

Each December and May, members of the Haiti Connection, a volunteer group dedicated to remedying the water issue, travel to Haiti where families cannot rely on running water.

Holly Walters, volunteer chair and minister at the Newman Center, said Nelms, chairperson of the group, constantly gives her all.

"Fran is always willing to help out when needed," Walters said. "She doesn't expect recognition; she just helps from her heart."

While in Haiti, the most impoverished country in the western hemisphere, Nelms and other group members worked with Haitians to provide families with individual water filters and show them how to use the systems.

Without the filters, or "buckets for life,"

families may struggle with untreatable illnesses and disease.

"The experience was very monumental because you're making such an impact on others' lives," Nelms said. "It creates such an awareness because you see people who aren't able to eat every day, when our biggest choices are hamburgers or pizza."

Nelms has held her position as the chair of the Haiti Connection since last May, when the group took its most recent trip to Haiti.

"We needed a chair immediately when we were down there," said Ann Schwingel, a junior accounting major and treasurer

for the group. "She was kind of appointed and just assumed the role while we were down there."

Although Nelms' appointment was an unplanned one, Schwingel complimented her chairperson's success at the position.

"She's done a really good job with the Haiti Connection," Schwingel said. "She's always on top of things and is really effective in tying everything together and letting the members know what's going on."

Her dedication to the group has not

SEE HELP ♦ Page 7

SONOR contest to determine new advertising slogan

◆ *Group wants student input, ideas due Friday*

By Alec Gleason
STAFF WRITER

SONOR is holding a contest for students that want to help create a new slogan for this year's student awareness campaign.

Students can fill out an entry form and give their suggestions for this year's slogan. Entries can be dropped off at any campus mailbox, addressed to the office of safety programs. SONOR will present the student who creates the best new slogan with a prize.

SONOR will replace last year's slogan of "0 to 4 and no more" in hopes of better promoting student awareness of alcohol related issues and student responsibility.

"We felt last year's slogan was misleading," said Jim Markunas a freshman marketing major and business manager for SONOR. "Since last year, the stats have changed, so we hope this year's slogan will be more believable."

Markunas said last year's slogan was also misused a lot, especially in bars.

SONOR hopes to get a more positive message out with this year's slogan.

SONOR also hopes that getting

"We hope that this contest will get our name out there."

—Candice Anderson

the students involved will create more awareness of their organization.

"I have often heard students say SONOR? Who are they?" said Candice Anderson, a junior health studies major and president of SONOR. "We hope that this contest will get our name out there and help students remember us."

SONOR also believes that this contest will help give students a more positive opinion of their group.

All the members of SONOR will judge the contest. The winner will be chosen on the basis of creativity, originality and the effectiveness of the message. All student entries must be turned in by Friday; the winner will be announced the first week of next semester.

There has been a very positive response from students about this contest; so far about 50 entries have already been turned in.



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Jodi Bowen, an art teacher at Lakeland College, looks at paintings and drawings on exhibit in the Tarble Arts Center Tuesday afternoon.

Eastern alumna makes history by winning an art show award

◆ *1996 graduate attended Tarble Arts Center award ceremony Sunday night*

By Genevieve Cyrs
STAFF WRITER

For the first time in the 27-year history of the Biennial Drawing/Watercolor Illinois Exhibition held at the Tarble Arts Center, an Eastern alumna took home the Newton E. Tarble Memorial Best of Show Purchase Award.

The winner, Melinda McIntosh, who received her master's in art from Eastern in 1996, was presented the honor Sunday for her Stones and Trees charcoal drawing.

"I think that was the most significant part of the evening," said Michael Watts, Director of the Tarble Arts Center.

The exhibition was judged by John Brunetti, a Chicago art critic, curator and educator. A total of 267 pieces were entered by 108 artists.

The annual exhibition is open to artists living in

Illinois whose work is done on paper and has been completed within the last two years. All of the work submitted is original, and includes traditional watercolors and drawings, as well as mixed-media works, abstractions, collages, and other styles.

Artists who enrolled their works in the exhibition come from areas near and far including Champaign, Effingham, Casey, and even some from Peoria and the Chicago suburbs, Watts said.

During the reception, a short ceremony was held to announce the awards and present the winners. Among the other winners of the evening was Akiko Matsouka-Thorson, who was awarded the Ronchetti Art Acquisition Fund Drawing Purchase Award. Both her piece and McIntosh's piece will be added to the Tarble Arts Center's permanent collection, Watts said.

The award sponsors included many local community members, the EIU Alumni Association, the Coles County Arts Council and the members of the Tarble Arts Center. The exhibition will be open to the public through Jan. 19, but will be closed Dec. 23 through Jan. 1 for the holidays.

Judge orders records to remain sealed now

Judge Dale A. Cini said the records of an Eastern student on trial for murder would remain sealed until his trial begins in January.

Cini had the military records of Anthony B. Mertz, which had been subpoenaed from the Department of Veterans Affairs, which he said would be for his eyes only for the time being.

Mertz's attorneys Paula Phillips and David Williams were not present at the pretrial hearing.

Mertz is accused of killing Eastern student Shannon McNamara in her apartment on June 12, 2001.

Jury selection for the trial will begin Jan. 27, 2003.

—Compiled by Amber Williams

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POLICE BLOTTER

Theft

On Dec. 1, it was reported that a laptop computer and DVD movie was stolen from a room in Douglas Hall, a police report stated. The incident is under investigation.

On Dec. 1, it was reported that electronic equipment was stolen from a room in Douglas Hall, a police report stated. The incident is under investigation.

On Dec. 4, a wreath and a small plaque were stolen from a wall on the first floor of Old Main, a police report stated. The incident is under investigation.

Disorderly Conduct /Telephone Threat

On Dec. 9, an Eastern employee had a threat left on voice mail, a police report stated. The incident is being investigated.

CORRECTIONS

A story in Friday's edition of *The Daily Eastern News* incorrectly stated Sue Kaufman is a former journalism professor at Eastern. Kaufman is currently on sabbatical from her position.

The News regrets the error.

Inquest to be held tonight

An inquest will be held in the death of Brain R. Ford, 19, Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Charleston City Hall, said Coles County Coroner Mike Nichols.

Ford was pronounced dead at 12:15 a.m. Nov. 9 at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center of an unknown cause. He was a sophomore marketing major from Jerseyville.

The results of an autopsy and toxicology tests will be released at the inquest.

Ford was found dead at the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity house on Greek Court Nov. 9.

Ford also was a member of the American Red Cross, Christian Campus House, Student Senate and University Baptist Church.

—Compiled by John Chambers

Plays continue unfazed by theater construction

By Melissa Nielsen
SENIOR WRITER

As the construction in the Village Theater dwindles down to the completion of odds and ends, theater students are continuing business as usual with the production of two one-act plays.

The Actor's Nightmare by Christopher Durand and Androcles and the Lion by Aurand Harris will show for the last time at 7 p.m. tonight at the Village Theater. The comedies have kept audiences entertained while giving students a chance to get comfortable in their new setting.

John Oertling, chair of the theater department, said he think students are adjusting well to the Village Theater after the theater department was moved there during the construction and renovation of the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

Rocco Renda, a freshman theater major, agreed, saying the Village Theater offered a lot of intimacy with the crowd and no one has to mind any boundaries.

"It's a lot of fun," he said. "We have to make sure we are always facing everyone in the audience

and we get to interact with the audience."

The one-acts follow the theater department's first production, "Waiting for Godot," both deemed a success by Oertling. The department's curriculum was cut down from its usual schedule, accommodating fewer plays because the building was not finished at the beginning of the semester.

"They have worked out better than expected," he said. "Reducing the season was the right choice. There was no way we could have opened a show in September. We wouldn't have been ready."

Oertling compared the move from Doudna Fine Arts Center to the Village Theater to a move from one house to another. The most important part of moving into a new home, he said, is making sure the area is livable and functioning. The theater department took care of that by ensuring class schedules would not be affected by construction delays.

Now, the department is slowly moving into new stages of the move. They are unpacking boxes and finding a new place for everything to go. Some boxes, just like in a home, Oertling said, may never

even get unpacked, making an official move-in completion date rather vague.

"There are a lot of little things that need to be done," he said.

Oertling said the completion of the theater area marked a milestone in the completion of the move, but many projects need to be finished to give the new building a touch of home.

Oertling said the department plans to finish smaller projects over the winter break. The properties storage room still needs to be organized, and boxes need to be unpacked. Costume racks and wooden boards to support posters will also be added.

"We're moving slow, steady progress with that," Oertling said. "We had to slow down on that obviously (to prepare for "Waiting for Godot"). We should be making more progress in that general area now."

Crews will also begin and complete a ramp and small deck that will be attached to outside storage trailers, he said. Most properties and costumes have been moved in the trailers and organized, and the ramp and deck will provide safe, easy access to the area.



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Erin Karson, a junior English major, measures a board for Zach Steele, a sophomore education major, to cut on Tuesday afternoon in the Village Theatre on 18th street. The two were helping to build racks to store costumes.

Health Services plans to change excuse policy

By Teri Webster
STAFF WRITER

A recent alteration in health service policy will make skipping classes for non-serious illnesses a harder task for students.

Health Services will implement a change in January to its written walk-out statements provided to verify that a student has received medical attention.

Walk-out statements include students' written diagnosis, symptoms and check-in time.

Attendance policies for Eastern classes are set by the instructors, but nearly every policy includes some provision for medical excuses, according to a letter sent to all teaching faculty.

"We don't want people to abuse the system for people who are really sick."

—Lynette Drake

The biggest problem Health Services faces with the current system is students who do not have serious illnesses, but go to obtain written verification when they miss class because of being sick.

This change was the result of a suggestion made by the Health Service Advisory Board and the

staff of Health Services.

Lynette Drake, director of Health Services, said there were concerns the walk-out statements were losing their value.

"We don't want people to abuse the system for people who are really sick," she said.

Drake said teachers were being encouraged to go on their students' words.

"It needs to be understood that when someone is ill they don't always go to the doctor," Drake said.

Nita Schrader, an administrative nurse at Health Services, said through the years the faculty has relied on the walk-out statements to excuse students from class.

Schrader said some students have come in saying they missed class for some reason and they need a walk-out statement.

"Some students complain of symptoms they know we can't check on," Schrader said. "Some days I think they're getting too smart for us."

One excuse Schraeder has heard is that Health Services, which is open from Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., is not accommodating enough for sick students.

"I don't think the hours keep students from visiting health service because they have adjusted their hours over the years according to the flow of stu-

dents," Schrader said.

Lola McElwee, a journalism instructor, said she thinks the change was necessary if it accomplishes what Health Services wants it to.

McElwee said she excuses students missing class for sickness without proof from Health Services if they notify her before class.

Jen Welsh, a senior elementary education major, said she thinks this is a good change because it will prevent students from missing class unnecessarily.

"I don't think this will prevent sick students from going to health service," she said. "Because if they are really sick they'll be excused."

Faculty Senate makes subcommittee to address representation

By John Chambers
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

The Faculty Senate established a subcommittee to discuss faculty involvement in the Council on University Planning and Budget at its meeting Tuesday.

The CUPB meets Friday and is composed of 36 faculty, staff and student members, 11 of whom are faculty, and the senate said the subcommittee could research increasing that number.

The subcommittee also will consider the function of the CUPB and make resolutions for the senate to consider, said English professor David Carpenter.

The Faculty Senate can then make a statement of principle on the resolutions to the university.

"This is an incredibly sensitive issue," Carpenter said. "(The current CUPB members) could legitimately say we're supporting the academic side of the university."

The senate suggested if more faculty are added, non-faculty will likely be removed so the CUPB does not grow too large.

The CUPB makes recommendations to the president and the President's Council regarding program priorities in the university budget, transferring of significant amounts of internal budget items and the review of the budget.

The senate approved academic freedom as the topic for the next faculty forum to be held Jan. 28.

Faculty forums are scheduled every year, or sometimes every semester, and have covered such topics as technology and shared

governance, said chair Anne Zahlan.

The January forum will cover the three main areas of academic freedom – the right to privacy on computers, academic freedom in the classroom and freedom concerning shared governance.

Academic freedom in the classroom will discuss faculty content in selecting course content, the delivery of the course and the opportunity for expression.

Shared governance will outline supplying truthful information about Eastern's resources and policy, input into forming policy, evaluating administrators and faculty input in searching for a university president.

The allocation and distribution of resources in the university was also discussed by the senate.

Certain aspects of the university show

examples of what seems like favoritism, said associate professor of recreation administration John Henry Pommier.

"Certain individuals on this campus have received a salary increase," Pommier said, but many of the university's vice presidents have larger workloads because of positions not filled.

"I think this is beyond the salaries. This is the idea of equity," he said. "The idea is do you feel good at this university."

He used the recent bankruptcy of United Airlines as an example of money not being spent in the right areas, and employees not feeling respected.

The Faculty Senate meets at 2 p.m. Tuesdays in the Booth Library Conference Room 4440.

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EDITORIAL

Board must quit stalling

Citizens and lawmakers have tinkered with Charleston's Unified Development Code for years. The city held hearings for the public to help iron out the kinks and clarified what it needed to help make everyone happy.

Now, the Board of Zoning and Appeals has to approve the code, so the City Council can put it into effect.

The code hasn't been revised in more than 30 years. Time needs to be spent on writing the code — the changes will effect every part of the city and most of its citizens — but not too much time should pass before a new code is released.

The past two times the Board of Zoning and Appeals has scheduled a meeting, it has gathered all its members in the council chambers and decided within a few minutes to call it off, citing a lack of preparation.

The Unified Development Code is nothing new. It's

arguably the biggest thing the Board of Zoning and Appeals has had to wrangle with in the past few years. If the board is going to schedule a meeting, it needs to hold one. If the board is unprepared to approve the code, it can use the meeting to discuss its concerns, at least for now.

Now, the Board of Zoning and Appeals is wasting time by rescheduling meetings and continuing to show up unprepared. What if all of Charleston's and Eastern's governing boards decided to blow off their meetings? What would happen if the City Council, Eastern's Board of Trustees and the Student Senate just started cancelling their meetings?

Things would never get done. Showing up unprepared to a meeting is unacceptable and so is repeatedly calling them off, presumably to give themselves time to prepare.

How, for several weeks, can an entire board show up to a meeting with nothing to say about a code nearly an inch thick that's been a topic of debate and discussion for years? It doesn't add up. Although the board may be very curious and concerned about how local residents feel about the code, that does not mean that the decision as to when it will be approved should be shoved to the back burner.

So, board members, use this time to get ready and have a meeting. If you don't believe you are ready to approve the code, discuss why that is, so this issue can be settled soon.

Do not leave this code continuously hanging over the heads of residents and students. You have gotten your feedback at previous meetings, and now it is time to get something done.

The editorial is the majority opinion of the Daily Eastern News editorial board.

At issue
Charleston's Unified Development Code

Our stance
The Board of Zoning and Appeals needs to quit delaying the approval of the code so it may be put into effect.

OPINION

Break through your bubble



Amber Williams

Senior writer and semi-monthly columnist for *The Daily Eastern News*

she also is a senior journalism major.

She can be reached at 581-2812 or anwilliams@eiu.edu

I have never known what it is like to be considered as a part of a minority.

As a Caucasian, middle class, Christian heterosexual female, I usually do not have to face adversity in my daily life.

I am accustomed to being surrounded by people who, for the most part, agree with my beliefs and do not have any standing prejudices against me.

However, spending one night outside of my typical circle of night spots made me stop and think about what it means to be a part of a minority, instead of the majority.

Last Friday, at the request of one of my bisexual friends, my friends and I decided to go dancing at a popular gay bar in Champaign.

While dancing at the bar, I scanned the crowd to observe the plenitude of attractive young men. Typically, being surrounded by hot men is not a problem, but I quickly remembered none of these men would have any interest in me.

I was not used to having my

"I am not claiming to be an expert on what it is like to be a minority because I spent one night at a gay bar..."

female status working against me for getting the attention of the male bartenders to get served.

Exasperated, I looked at my bisexual friend and explained to her how frustrating it was to be around all these men who I had no chance with.

My friend laughed in response and said, "Welcome to what every day is like for me."

That's when it occurred to me that I had no idea what it is like to be the exception, not the rule.

I had never been in a situation before when almost everyone else was not of the same sexual orientation as I am.

Like many others, I have

found it easy to reside safely within the restraints of my comfort zone.

This all may be fine and well, if you care to reside in a bubble. But if you want to be able to see the world from someone else's point of view, you must seek out places and experiences you are not used to.

I am not claiming to be an expert on what it is like to be a minority because I spent one night at a gay bar, but expanding your perceptions has to start somewhere.

Think about being in a situation where you are somehow thrust into a group you would not typically be a part of, and put yourself in it.

You don't have to look past Eastern's campus to find events to diversify your life. The Black Student Union and Pride both put on events anyone could go to, or you could attend a church service of a religion other than your own.

You never know what you will find out about someone else when you put yourself in their shoes.

Cartoon by Paul Franklin



YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editorial Board not informed on issue

I have been reading your editorials with great interest and believe your "Editorial Board," whomever that may be, needs to be more informed and look at the issue with the strike vote from another perspective before another pro-administration editorial is printed. Let's look at this situation from a professor's viewpoint.

These negotiations began LAST APRIL. The administration has been stonewalling and delaying negotiation since that time. This contract should have been settled in August when our last contract expired, but if the university can drag out the negotiations, they can continue to spend money on other things and delay paying promotions and/or raises that were to go into effect with the beginning of this fall semester.

The union demonstrated a willingness to communicate by accepting the extension of the former contract, yet delays by the administration continued. We could have walked out when the contract was up, but out of concern

for the students, we did not!

Delaying beats down those involved, and as the year goes on all involved, especially overworked faculty, become more exhausted. The administration then hopes to entice the union to "settle" for less. This has been historically done during contract negotiations. Does this demonstrate concern for our faculty and students? I think not! The administration withholding any pertinent information from the union is not proper communication. This has been done repeatedly, including the last time in which a CUPD meeting was cancelled.

I am surprised, on a daily basis, by the conduct of the administration in contract negotiations. The administration continually cries "wolf at the door, we have no money," yet spends over \$450,000 on computer consultants, plans on spending another \$850,000 on Astroturf and gives raises to several administrators! If the athletic department has money to spend on Astroturf and exorbitant raises, then

they probably do not need \$1.3 million of appropriated funds they siphon from the budget.

The strike authorization vote is a step in the process, which legally must be undertaken to place the union in a position to strike (only if there is no other choice). It is not a vote to strike or hurt the university or its students, it is a method in the process to let the university know we are serious about these negotiations. It is a tool that has been set in place in the process to communicate that the union memberships is serious and frustrated with the feet-dragging being carried out by the university administration.

How can you say it is too soon to file unfair labor practices if in reality they are occurring? These are legal protections, and when these

are violated, they must be reported no matter when that occurs! Would you delay reporting a crime until the timing is right?

The faculty at Eastern Illinois University is all about serving the students. We are asking for what we need to better serve the students. These needs are: Lower workloads to free us up to spend more time with students and carry out the research with our students, a fair wage so we can recruit and retain faculty and control over our academic work and the methods we use to deliver this material. We are not out of line with what we are asking, but the administration is truly in an obstructionist mode in these and past negotiations.

Thomas Sinclair
Assistant professor for
Special Education

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues. They should be less than 250 words and include the authors' name, telephone number and address. Students should indicate their year in school and major. Faculty, administration and staff should indicate their position and department. Letters whose authors cannot be verified will not be printed. Depending on space constraints, we may edit letters, so keep it concise. Letters can be sent to *The Daily Eastern News* at 1811 Buzzard Hall, Charleston IL 61920; faxed to 217-581-2923; or e-mailed to majones@eiu.edu



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Dianna Ensign, a financial aid advisor for the university, answers questions regarding the online FAFSA during a financial aid forum held Tuesday evening in the Martinsville room of the Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union.

Panel offers advice about financial aid

◆ *Administrators give tips on avoiding costly scams*

By Avian Carrasquillo
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

Administrators fielded questions from students on financial aid-related topics in the Student Government sponsored Financial Aid Forum held in the Martinsville room of the Union at 8 p.m. Tuesday.

The panel for the Financial Aid forum included Linda Coffey, Bursar; Sue Harvey, Director of Academic Records and Registration; and Dianna Ensign, Financial Aid Advisor. The forum had a turnout of about 15 students.

One of the forum's main focuses was how to avoid financial aid scams.

Linda Coffey, Bursar, said that students are a big target for scam artists.

"If it's a paid scholarship search, beware, it could be a scam. There are a lot of reputable companies out there for free, like fastweb.com," Coffey said.

Ronnie Deedrick, Vice President for Academic Affairs voiced his concern over the lack of publicity for scholarships offered by Eastern.

"Last year I received a scholarship that was printed in a newsletter. It was pointed out to me by one of my professors. If I hadn't heard about it from him, I would have missed out on that scholarship opportunity. I think we need to work on this as a university community," Deedrick said.

Ensign sympathized with Deedrick, but said that students often neglect to look.

"Publicity is the key; all of our scholarships are available on our web site. Right now we have mass e-mails that go out to students on their e-mail accounts. The trouble with that is that the majority of students don't use their Eastern accounts. It is now possible for them to have their e-mails from their Eastern accounts transferred to their regular accounts. They can do this when they log on to it," Deedrick said.

Administrators also reminded students to file for financial aid as soon as possible.

Student senate member Amanda Sartore this year's turnout went better than last year.

"Last year we had the forum in February and only two or three people showed up; this year at least 15 people showed up. I think it went well. I learned a lot from the presentation," she said.

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STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Hammering away

Adam Alvis of Charleston guides a support beam into place on the new Health Services building Tuesday afternoon. Alvis is an ironworker for Roessler Construction of Rantoul.

Student Senate plans to elect new speaker

◆ *Group also encouraging favorable resolution of faculty contract negotiations*

By Avian Carrasquillo
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

Seating of new senate members, elections for a speaker of the senate and a resolution regarding faculty labor negotiations are on the agenda for the last Student Senate meeting of the semester.

The resolution, authored by External Relations Committee chair George Lesica does not take sides on the issue, but encourages a swift, successful and amicable finish to the contract negotiations between Eastern's chapter of the University Professionals of Illinois and Eastern's administration.

"In no way are we taking sides; we are neutral," Lesica said. "We don't have all the information. I'm sure that there are opinions on Student Senate that go both ways. What we are saying is that a successful contract negotiation benefits both sides."

21 new senate members were elected in

"In no way are we taking sides. We don't have all the information."

—George Lesica

November and will serve one-year terms. Two additional members will be appointed at the beginning of the spring semester. In addition, seven members will continue their one-year terms.

The speaker of the senate is elected each semester and serves in an advisory role to the senate, in addition to running its meetings.

Bill Davidson, current speaker of the senate, said the elections will be important for next semester. "We had a lot of returning (senate members) from this semester," he said. "They have a lot of work ahead of them."

The Student Senate will continue meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesdays next semester in the Tuscola/Arcola Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Motor fuel tax brings money back into community

By Carly Mullady
CITY EDITOR

Coles County's municipality, townships, and road districts have been allotted \$143,965.28 as its share of the monthly motor fuel taxes paid from October.

From every gallon of motor fuel, the state of Illinois takes approximately 19 cents as motor fuel taxes, said Darrell Lewis, local program development engineer for the Illinois Bureau of Local Roads and Streets. The state then distributes 46 percent to the road fund and construction account and 54 percent to municipalities, counties and road districts/townships.

"In an average city like Charleston, approximately \$28.25 per person and \$1,325 per mile is redistributed to the county," Lewis said.

Both the municipality and road district allotments are given to the county for distribution, Lewis said. This money is then divided as desired with respect to Illinois motor

fuel tax fund restrictions.

The state Department of Transportation must approve engineering agreements, plans, specifications, and estimates for construction projects before counties are allowed to advertise for bids.

"State law specifies use on streets, roads and bridges only," Lewis said. The restrictions are divided into county construction and maintenance and other county uses.

County construction and maintenance restrictions limit motor fuel tax expenditures to several categories, Lewis said. This money can be used for bicycle paths, signs and surface markings, county garages, federal aid projects, grade separations, and non-dedicated subdivision roads.

Railroad signal protection, right-of-way, salt storage facilities, sidewalks, state and county highways and county unit roads are also permissible uses. Money spent on storm sewers, traffic control devices, tree trimming and tree removal, utility adjustment and wheelchair ramps is legal as well.

Other allowable county uses are salaries for county employees and their compensation, along with local mass transit funding and payment of principal and interest on road bonds.

The Motor Fuel Tax Law requires the portion of the tax given to municipalities be distributed as 49 percent given to state municipalities, 17 percent to Cook County, 18 percent to the remaining counties and 16 percent to the road districts, Lewis said.

"State law requires a certain percentage in Illinois. First, expenses are made, then a percentage goes back to local agencies and is split up by population for municipalities and by mileage for road districts," he said.

The portion distributed to the road fund and construction account is divided into two deposits, Lewis said.

The State Construction Account Fund receives 37 percent of the money, and the Road Fund receives the remaining 63 percent.

All together, Illinois counties were allotted

approximately \$9.2 million and townships/road districts were allotted approximately \$8 million. Cook County alone has been allotted almost \$8.5 million because of its large population.

Of the state's overall motor fuel tax fund deposits, Coles County received nearly \$60,000 and Coles county townships/road districts were allotted approximately \$84,000.

Lewis said warrants are issued monthly to county treasurers in the amount of the county's and county road district/townships' share of the Illinois Motor Fuel Tax Fund.

Of the greater than \$4 million in motor vehicle license fees Coles County collected during October, approximately \$60,000 was redistributed for the county's use. Also, nearly \$85,000 was allotted for Coles County's 745 miles of road districts.

State law requires this funding be dedicated to any of the previously mentioned permissible street, road and bridge repairs in the area.

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The Ladies of **Alpha Sigma Tau** would like to announce its new executive board and thank the old executive board for all their hard work

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Alumnae Liaison	Carol Hendricks	Rebecca White
Recruitment Director	Annie Fredrick	Nicole Samford
New Member	Carie Jordan	Cari Smolinski
Educator	Kerry Kulka	Christy Mieling
Panhellenic Delegate		Mariah Martin-Dooling

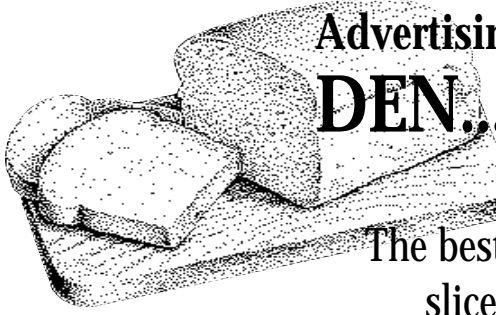
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PHOTO SUBMITTED BY FRANCES NELMS

Frances Nelms, a senior early-childhood education major, sits with a group of young children she met on her trip to Haiti with the Haiti Connection at the Newman Catholic Center last summer. Participants help their sister community in Haiti have clean water.

Help:

Nelms involved with a variety of social issues

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

prevented Nelms from becoming involved in a number of other things. In addition to being involved with the Haiti Connection, Nelms has also participated in Alternative Spring Break, a program that provides low-income families with homes and home improvements. Nelms supports the Fair Trade coalition at Eastern, and is currently helping to plan a presentation that will educate and create awareness about globalization issues, to be held in February.

“She just gives of herself all the time,” Walters said. “I’ve never even heard her complain. “She’s always looking to give.” Nelms will graduate this semester and will begin student teaching in Hanover Park, Maryland next semester, but she hopes to find time to travel to Haiti again in the spring. “I’m going to miss her,” Schwingel said. “I think the person who succeeds her (as chairperson) is going to have a hard person to follow. She did such a good job.” Nelms attended her last Haiti Connection meeting Tuesday night. “I’m really sad about leaving it,” she said. “I would encourage people to join and dedicate part of their time making an impact and creating change.”

IBHE:
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
heating and cooling system improvement, ranked 22 on the IBHE’s list, Hencken said. Eastern’s newly-implemented EIU4 program to guarantee students graduate in four years was recognized, and the university received \$10,000 for the project. Hyder said many in Springfield won’t disagree that these are valid needs for

higher education, but said it’s unlikely legislators will approve the recommendations. Despite a substantial budget deficit and a new regime in the capitol, both Hyder and Hencken are confident in the IBHE’s recommendations. “I heard good comments made about higher education being important to people in Illinois,” Hencken said. “I think the state and the governor’s office need to step up to the plate.”

Anti-war demonstrators arrested in federal building

CHICAGO (AP) — About 20 anti-war demonstrators were arrested Tuesday when they sat down in the lobby of a federal office building to protest U.S. policy toward Iraq, federal officials said. Demonstrators also briefly blocked the entrances to the John C. Kluczynski Federal Office Building in downtown Chicago, U.S. Marshal Kim Widup said. He said they would be charged with criminal trespass. Outside, about 40 demonstrators picketed with signs expressing opposition to any military action against Iraq. Dorothy Pagosa, a staff member of the 8th Day Center for Justice which organized the demonstration, said those arrested had formed a “circle of life” to show their opposition to any war with Iraq. She said the nationwide group has been formed by Catholic priests and others to protest against “systems that oppress people.” Protesters said they feared the United States was about to go to war with Iraq .

Rally:
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

within hours if the administration is willing to bargain in good faith, but a settlement for the new three-year faculty contract will not likely reach a settlement until January or February. The UPI passed out flyers outlining a master plan for academic quality of six improvements the faculty would like to see at Eastern, comparable to points outlined by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. The first point is to hire more faculty and reduce class size, especially if students cannot learn in an overcrowded environment, Radavich said. “I talked to one student who said it’s not too bad if you don’t have to sit in the balcony, because then you can’t hear,” he said. The second issue is to ensure more time for faculty workloads and student mentoring, made more difficult when faculty take on extra classes. The other issues include reducing or eliminating consulting contracts, redirecting appropriated funds from athletics or other areas, paying salary increases to faculty and staff and reducing administrative costs. “The wonder of budgets is you can’t really tell where the money’s going,” Radavich said. He said because of tuition increases, the university has four percent more money overall in appropriated funds, money that could be used for civil, staff

and faculty raise increases. “We think a reasonable amount should go into the classrooms,” he said. “It is true that the state budget is in dire need. We have a differed human maintenance we should be dealing with.” The four percent increase in appropriated funds is partially balanced by extra costs, administrator’s chief negotiator Bob Wayland said. “I think you have to look at how much other costs have gone up also,” he said. “We have had some reductions in our budget. The money spent is in the best interests of the university.” He said the rally does not make a large impact on negotiations. “This is what some of the UPI leadership felt they needed to do,” Wayland said. “I think the administration certainly understands why they feel the way they feel, but it doesn’t change anything as far as Eastern’s budget.” Some faculty do not know where administration priorities stand, said assistant English professor Angela Vietto. “This could be a terrific university, but only if academics are a priority,” she said. “The administration — I don’t know where they stand.” Vietto said students can see an impression faculty make by the rally. “I wish it would have more of an impact. I hope (students) understand why we’re here,” she said. The last UPI picket was Oct. 23. The rally Tuesday drew 30 to 50 faculty and staff.

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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES: University Admission to Teacher Education Meeting tonight, 6-6:50pm in 1501 Buzzard Auditorium. Students must formally apply for University Admission to Teacher Education. This is done by attending a meeting. Students who have not previously applied must attend.

CHRISTIAN CAMPUS HOUSE. Wednesday night Bible Study tonight at 7 pm at the campus house. Everyone welcome!

WESLEY FOUNDATION: Powerlight tonight at 9:15pm at the Wesley Foundation, across 4th from Lawson. Contemporary Christian music with praise band F.O.A.M. Special Christmas Candlelight Service.

EPSILON SIGMA ALPHA: Business Meeting tonight 5:30pm, Charleston/Mattoon Room.

The Daily Eastern News

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Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1030

ACROSS

1___ll (razor brand)

5A tusker

9Guts

14Sling

15"Anything ___?"

16Sociologist Durkheim

17Where Sikkim is

18What's left

19Fingered

20"Why're you acting strange?" in Delhi?

23They bind

24Diez x diez

25Abaft

28Jemima, e.g.

29Invoice fig.

321922 Nobelist in physics

33"It's all ___!"

34Air agcy.

35"Ya ready and able?" in Accra?

39A.A.R.P. members

40 Professorship, e.g.

41Actress Skye

42It may be naked

43Broadway debut of 10/7/82

44Wimple wearer

46Down in the dumps

47Opportunity

48"Don't even try" in Vientiane?

53Like traditional hospital fare

55Ottumwa's locale

56Elders' teachings

57Intrude, with "in"

58December air

59One of the Simpsons

60Clerics' council

61Some receivers

62Part of a lobster pot

DOWN

1Microwave option

2First name in talk

3Mezzo's tune

4Like a bucket of bolts

5Norway's second-largest city

6Dairy section selections

7___ prof.

8Netlike

9Family feud

10At full speed

11Bean town?

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

I	V	T	S	S	Q	N	E	D	O	N	A	S
V	S	I	T	T	E	O	N	E	D	R	V	B
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O'Hare workers violate security

CHICAGO (AP) — Twenty-five Chicago airport workers have been charged with criminal violations, and the security clearances of 553 others have been canceled in a crackdown on airport workers using fake IDs, officials announced Tuesday.

The arrests and canceling of security clearances were part of a nationwide sweep dubbed Operation Tarmac designed to shore up airport security in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks and make sabotaging planes more difficult for terrorists.

U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald told a news conference the action was designed to boost security at O'Hare International and Midway Airports "by removing serious felons with unknown or questionable identities."

"If we are serious about airport security ... we have to know that the people who are given access to secure areas are trustworthy," he said.

But Fitzgerald said the government has not found members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network working at O'Hare and Midway.

Those arrested include ramp agents, truck drivers, members of cleaning crews, a baggage handler, an airline cabin service attendant and a number of food service workers, most with Hispanic names.

The Illinois Coalition for Immigration and Refugee Rights immediately issued a statement saying the federal crackdown "only further criminalizes immigrants who work hard and pay taxes and are only trying to make a living and support themselves and their families."

"It is time for the Bush Administration to make good on its pre-Sept. 11 call for an earned legalization of hardworking, undocumented immigrants and stop treating food service workers, gate agents, bus boys and nannies as if they were potential terrorists," the organization said.

Fitzgerald took sharp issue with any suggestion that the government might be treating illegal immigrants or anyone else in unfair fashion.

"We're not picking on anyone," Fitzgerald said. "If you're going to work in an airport where we have to be secure, we're not going to stop and wand and search people, including you and I and everyone else, and let other people walk through who have prior convictions."

"Some people have convictions for drug offenses and they want to work in a secure area in an airport," he said. "We can't tolerate that."

Six of those arrested were charged with making false statements about previous criminal records — four for drug offenses, one for burglary and another for robbery, federal officials said.

Sixteen were charged with using bogus Social Security numbers and three with re-entering the country after they had been deported.

Fitzgerald said the 553 whose clearances were lifted had raised the suspicions of federal officials but were still under investigation.

Such employees need security badges to gain unescorted access to tarmacs, airplanes and other security-sensitive spots where their jobs would normally take them.

Chicago City Council considers ban on smoking in restaurants

CHICAGO (AP) — Doctors, asthma sufferers and even some restaurateurs crowded a committee room Tuesday to urge the Chicago City Council to become the next government body to ban smoking in all indoor public spaces.

"Outlaw the slow act of murdering children," said 18-year-old Christopher Butler, speaking for the Organized Students of Chicago and other youth groups.

At a hearing of the council's Health Committee, Butler likened the city's current requirement of 30 percent nonsmoking space for restaurants, leaving the rest free for smoking, to "considering a pool in which a third of the space was reserved for a urinating section."

Aldermen are considering two proposals: one banning smoking in restaurants, sports arenas and workplaces, and one going further to extend the smoking ban also to bars.

On Tuesday they heard only from anti-smoking forces. They plan a second meeting Jan. 7 to hear the other side.

Doctors and health association officials used Tuesday's two-hour meeting to insist nonsmoking sections and expensive ventilation are no guarantee the public is safe from cancer and heart disease.

Northwestern Memorial Hospital cardiology chief Robert Bonow said secondhand smoke is "not unlike, but even more dangerous than lead paint and asbestos."

Restaurant owners aren't unanimous in fighting a ban, but outside the hearing their association issued a statement opposing it. Association President Colleen McShane called a ban "an extreme economic hardship."

John Colletti, managing partner at Gibsons Steakhouse, said he shouldn't have to turn away smokers when he has spent \$1 million at two restaurants for air filtration.

"We've regulated ourselves over the years far beyond what the law requires," he said.

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DOONESBURY

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

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BY MIKE PETERS



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Villanova's Brett Gordon has had a playoff run that may put him above the rest of the crowd in the running for the Walter Payton Award.

Thrill:
Villanova coach believes
Gordon's season stats are a flash
above the rest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

carried this team on his back this season," Talley said. "That's what the Walter Payton Award is about."

The question is will the sportswriters from around the country who vote for the Walter Payton Award take playoff performance into consideration?

"He's really extended himself in the playoffs and he's the reason we've gone as far as we have in the playoffs," Talley said.

Along with his playoff effort, Gordon also completed 24 of 39 for 321 yards and three touchdowns in a 37-19 opening week victory over I-A Rutgers.

Gordon was not highly recruited out of high school because he stands only 5-foot-10. However, Gordon was destined to play for Villanova since birth. Both his father and grandfather started at quarterback for the Wildcats.

"He was not highly recruited by anyone, but he always wanted to keep the family tradition alive here," Talley said.

If Gordon is selected to receive the 2002 Walter Payton Award, it would mark the first-time ever that one school has produced back-to-back Payton recipients (running back Brian Westbrook, 2001) and Gordon would be the third Wildcats to receive the award (wide receiver Brain Finneran, 1997).

One thing is for sure, Gordon has certainly made several schools regret passing up his talents four years ago.

Top Cat:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Eastern's record books.

"As a coach I'm optimistic that our new athletes can set school records," Akers said. "It's a goal we look for in all of our athletes and he can certainly do it."

Becker is not the only diaper dandy on the Eastern track and field team. Akers said the group of freshmen is outstanding.

"Jason Stark had a great meet for us last Sunday," Akers said. "Marcel Morgan is very talented in the sprints. We also have a slew of really young and good distance runners. The coaching staff is very excited because we have a bright future ahead of us."

If last Sunday is any indication, Becker may very well be the brightest star of the bunch.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Badgers blow past Panthers

By Matt Williams
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Second-half foul trouble and turnovers doomed the Eastern women's basketball team Tuesday as it fell to Wisconsin 78-52 dropping its third game in a row.

The Panthers (1-6) kept the game close in the first half after only being down by six points entering the locker room, but fell apart in the last 20 minutes.

They committed several second-half turnovers as they were outscored 42-22 in the second half.

"Our team played pretty well the first 20 minutes," Eastern head coach Linda Wunder said. "I thought we put Wisconsin back on their heels. The storyline was the usual of we had a good first half and struggled in the second half."

The Badgers (2-5) took advantage of Panther fouls by getting to the free throw line 21 times in the second half converting on 20 of them. They shot 92.6 percent for the game.

"I'm not saying we didn't foul them, but they got hot and were scoring points with the clock stopped," Wunder said.

The Panthers also struggled on the glass as the Badgers dominated rebounds with a 50 to 24 advantage.

"They had more offensive boards than we had total," Wunder said. "I knew we would give up some because of their size advantage, but i hoped we would make it better."

Many of Wisconsin's baskets came on second- and third-chance looks. The Badgers took of their bigger players down low as they compiled 25 offensive rebounds while Eastern only had eight.

"We tried, and we did a pretty good job in the first half of doubling and tripling the ball inside, but we had no weakside rebounding," Wunder said. "They were making their second and third shots."

Eastern did shoot the ball better than Wisconsin with 41.5 percent compared to 38.5 percent, though the Badgers took 12 more shots.

Freshman guard Megan Sparks led Eastern in scoring for the second straight game with 16 points on 5-of-11 shooting from the field.

Junior center Allison Collins chipped in with 12 points, while senior center Brooke Gossett added 10 and led the team with five rebounds.

Junior guard Lauren Dailey had an off night with only two points and had five turnovers.

The Badgers placed four players in double digits with guard Stephine Rich leading the way with 14. Junior center Emily Ashbaugh added 13 points and 12 rebounds for Wisconsin.

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GUIDE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Domercant proves his prowess against Illini

◆ *Self: We really didn't guard him very well tonight*

By Matthew Stevens
SPORTS REPORTER

CHAMPAIGN — Henry Domercant proved the Illini faithful wrong by producing one of his best games this season.

Early in the first half, the preseason Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Year stepped to the foul line as chants of "Illinois reject" were shouted throughout the Orange Krush section.

Domercant carried the Panthers by scoring a game-high 30 points on 10-of-20 shooting, 3 of 6 from three-point range and 7 of 7 from the foul line.

"I'm really happy with the way Henry shot the ball tonight," Eastern head coach Rick Samuels said.

Eastern's motion offense wasn't giving Domercant good looks to start the game but junior forward Jesse Mackinson got some easy baskets early to set the tempo.

"I don't feel like I played a good first half because I couldn't get into a flow offensively but my teammates helped me out when I was struggling," Domercant said.

With 4:40 left in the first half, the Illini were up by 15 and looked to be starting a huge blowout, but Domercant finished the half with nine points and suddenly the lead was back down to six.

"The collar got a little tight when they kept coming back but we really didn't guard him very well," Illinois head coach Bill Self said.

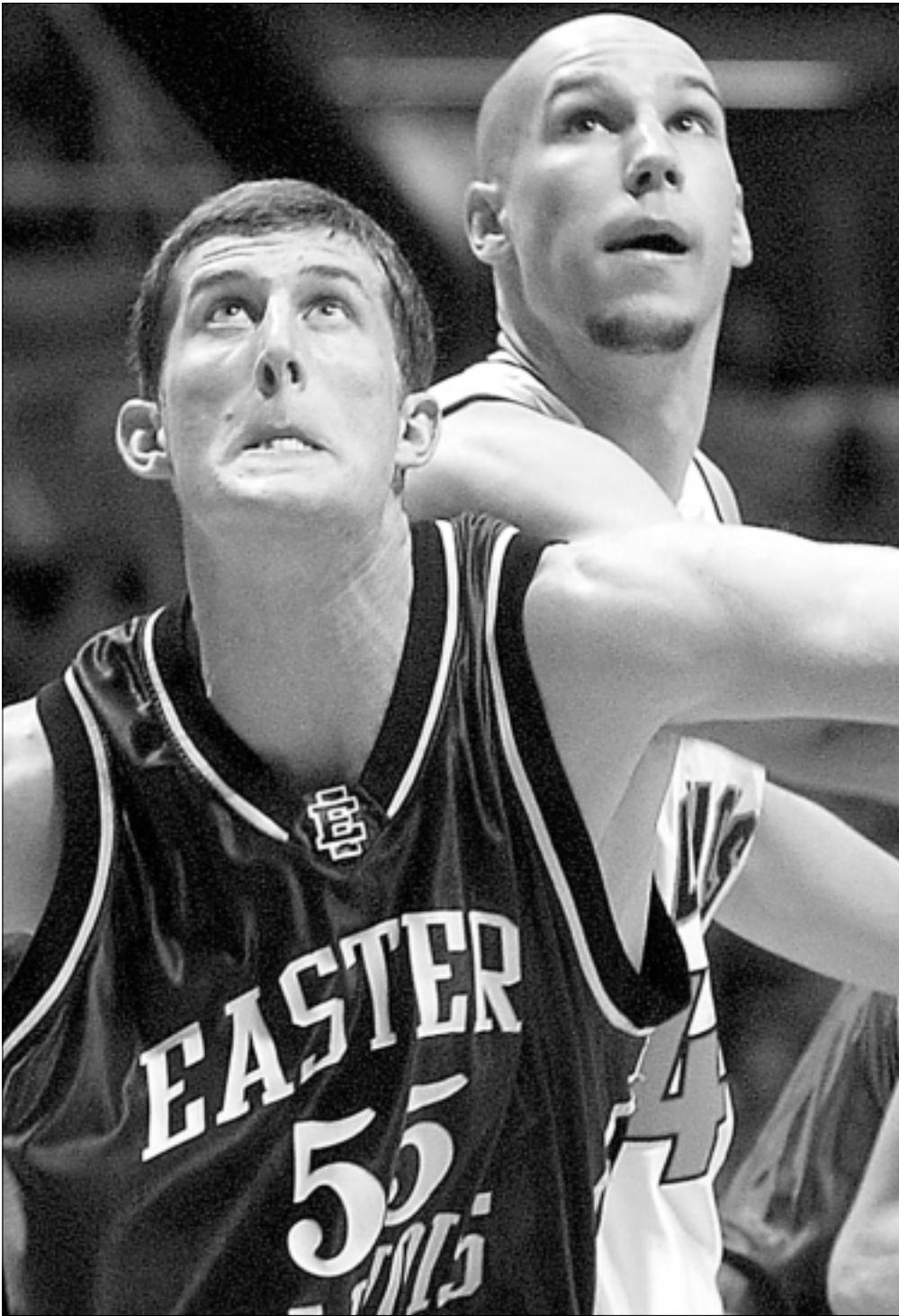
Once again, the problem for the Panthers was that Domercant wasn't given much help out of his teammates in the second half.

With 16:13 left in the game, Domercant made a free throw to cut the lead to four but didn't score for over 10 minutes. In that period, Illinois went on a 26-10 run to increase the lead to an impossible 21-point deficit.

"I thought our kids battled hard early and if we could have kept it closer late in the game maybe (Illinois) would have kept missing free throws," Samuels said.

However, after averaging only 17 points against Top 10 opponents this season, Domercant proved why he's not only arguably the state's best, but the nation's best scorer this season.

"It surprised me that Henry shot so well tonight," Samuels said. "This type of game makes me believe that we can beat a tough team on the road in the OVC."



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Eastern senior forward Jesse Mackinson boxes out for the rebound Tuesday against Illinois at Assembly Hall. Mackinson had only one rebound in the Panthers' 80-68 loss to the Illini.

Brown-out:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

minutes.

"We had a 21-point lead with three and half minutes left, but we managed to mess that up," Illinois head coach Bill Self said.

Eastern senior Henry Domercant led all scorers with 30 points, but got little help from the rest of his teammates, who accounted for just 38 points.

Domercant made 10-of-20 from the field, 3-of-6 from three point range and all seven of his free throw attempts.

"The thing about Henry is he's going to make some hard shots," Self said. "You just don't want to put him on the free throw line."

Junior forward Jesse Mackinson was the only other Panther to score in the double digits. The Panthers two starting guards, seniors J.R. Reynolds and Craig Lewis, couldn't get anything started from the field and shot a combined 0-8.

In the first half, the Panthers played extremely conservative basketball. Thirteen minutes into the game, the only Panthers to take more than one shot were Domercant and junior forward Jesse Mackinson.

The Panthers' strategy worked in the first five minutes of play. Eastern scored first on a free throw by senior guard Craig Lewis after the team had turned the ball over in its first two possessions.

The Panthers built up a brief six-point lead while the Illini struggled to find their touch from the floor. Eastern's early run was highlighted by a Domercant fast break capped off by a dunk to make the score 8-2.

Illinois came back, thanks to the efforts of forwards senior Brian Cook and sophomore Roger Powell. Powell made a two-pointer and a three-pointer while Cook added a pair of baskets including the shot that put the Illini up for good 11-10 just past seven minutes into the game.

The Illini were handcuffed by fouls, collecting 12 and sending the Panthers to the charity stripe 14 times. Eastern took advantage of the Illini's defensive slip ups, making 12 of its 14 free-throw attempts.



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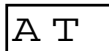



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SOLARIS (PG 13)
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8 CRAZY NIGHTS (PG13)
4:15, 6:30, 8:45
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OVERTIME



Matt Williams
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

A worthy
wish list for
Santa

With the holidays approaching, it is usually a time for family, friends and, of course, college bowl games. Something that also comes along with this is the constant nagging that I receive about what I want for Christmas.

I usually don't ask for a whole lot, but this year things have changed.

It has been a while since I can say that my sports wishes have been granted, so here is what I want bundled up in my stocking this year. Some are a little far-fetched, but hey, I have been good.

♦ I want the Stanley Cup to be polished and waiting for the St. Louis Blues. The blue notes have played with my emotions for way too long, and I think it is time they finally win it all.

If I have to see those winged fellows from Detroit carry the cup off the ice again this season, Santa and his little reindeer are going down.

Plus the city of St. Louis could use a boost after dealing with Kurt Warner and the Rams.

♦ While we have the polish out, let's shine up that Walter Payton Award and send it to Charleston. After the football team's season ended very painfully, it might help ease the pain if senior quarterback Tony Romo could come away with the award.

♦ After last year's disappointing ending to the men's basketball season, I better be getting reimbursed a little this year. Making a four hour trip to Murray, Ky. was hardly worth it as I had to watch the Panthers get blown out by nearly 50 points in the first round of the OVC tournament.

Did I mention how nice the people were? "You the boys from Eastern Illinois? I hope y'all lose tonight." Enough said.

So all I'm asking for is a home game in the first round this year against those same Murray State Racers. I'll greet the nice people from Kentucky and then proceed to watch them go home with their heads down after Henry Domercant makes a last second three to win the game. It would provide a little redemption for the football team.

♦ I want Donovan McNabb to demand a trade to his hometown team and then lead them to victory. I can hear it now: Super Bowl XXXVIII Champion Chicago Bears. Sounds nice doesn't it? Well, maybe I give Ol' St. Nick the benefit of the doubt on this one.

♦ OK, one last thing. Could I please get a little help for the Cubs. They have been bad for way too long. An extra bat in the lineup would surely sound good for those lovable losers. It couldn't get any better than watching the Cubs play in October.

All of these may be a little difficult to fit into one of Santa's bags, but I can settle for one or two.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

A Panther Brown-out

♦ *Illini freshman guard Dee Brown's 25 sink Panthers in Champaign*

By Matt Meinheit
SPORTS EDITOR

CHAMPAIGN — Illinois freshman guard Dee Brown dominated the second half to take away Eastern's chances of winning Tuesday night.

No. 15 Illinois handed the Panthers an 80-68 loss, largely in part due to the freshman's second-half performance.

After taking just three shots in the first half and making two of them, Brown went on tear in the second half. Brown bombed the Panthers with a barrage of threes. He finished the game with 25 points and shot 10-14 from the field including 5-8 from three-point range.

Brown helped the Illini build a 24-point lead in the second half with three and a half minutes left to play.

"What you got to like about Dee is that he's quick as lightning, but he is never out of control," Eastern head coach Rick Samuels said. "I don't think I have ever seen him out of control."

The Panthers rallied back in the closing minutes of the game, after Brown left the game for good. Eastern shrunk a 21-point deficit to just 12 in less than three

Eastern
Panthers
68

Illinois
Fighting Illini
80



COLIN MCAULIFFE/PHOTO EDITOR

Panther senior forward Henry Domercant makes a slam dunk during the first half of Tuesday's game against Illinois. Domercant's 30 points weren't enough to save the Panthers from a 80-68 loss to the Fighting Illini.

SEE BROWN-OUT ♦ Page 11

TOP CAT

"He is so talented that we want him out there for more events" — head track coach Tom Akers

Eastern track's early bird

♦ *Freshman Becker reaches new heights for Panther men's track*

By Michael Gilbert
STAFF WRITER

A freshman should not be this successful this soon.

Freshmen normally stand on the sidelines and watch as the upperclassmen take center stage. So in his first Eastern track and field meet Casey Becker was supposed to be an innocent bystander — not win the high jump at 2002 Early Bird.

But when Becker cleared 6 feet, 4 inches he had done just that.

"I was very pleased with Casey's performance," head coach Tom Akers said. "He has a great attitude and I can't say enough about what he did."

Even though his coach was thrilled with the job his talented freshman had done, Becker was actually upset with his showing last Sunday at the Lantz Fieldhouse.

"He was disappointed with his performance," Akers said. "Casey is very competitive and he thought he could have done better."

If Becker thinks he can do better he will certainly have the chance to do so. Akers is expecting a lot of work from his fabulous freshman.

"He is so talented that we want him out there for more (events) than the high jump," Akers said. "The one worry I have is that I don't want to burn him out."

Becker was the Class A Illinois high jump champion during his junior and senior season at Divernon High School. He was highly recruited and chose Eastern over schools including Indiana State, Western Illinois and the University of Illinois.

While at Divernon, he endured through nagging injuries his final two seasons. The injuries may have been a blessing in disguise. Becker's high school coaches thought he might not be healthy enough to compete in the high jump so they tried him out in different events. Now healthy and with experience, Becker's role at Eastern is undecided but enticing.

"For us he'll compete in the high jump," Akers said. "We're going to try him out in the long jump but that will be a new event for him. We're also going to see what he can do in long (distance) events."

Becker's winning high jump last weekend was only nine inches away from the school record of seven feet one inch shared by former Panthers Cory Utterback and Tim Thompson. Akers believes that if Becker can stay healthy he has a shot to rewrite some of



STEPHEN HAAS/ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

Freshman Casey Becker has landed as a standout in the high jump this year.

SEE TOP CAT ♦ Page 10

PAYTON AWARD WATCH

Villanova's star quarterback has a license to thrill

(Editor's note: This is the first of a three-part series about the top three vote getters for the Walter Payton Award, the Division I-AA equivalent of the Heisman Trophy).

By Matthew Stevens
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Villanova quarterback Brett Gordon has a license to thrill, and his flair for the dramatic is what makes him a Walter Payton Award candidate.

At the regular season finale, in front of 24,000 screaming Delaware fans, Gordon introduced himself to the college football

Poised for the
Payton award

A look at the top
three candidates
for the Walter
Payton Award.

Part 1: Brett Gordon, Villanova

world once again.

With 1:35 and no timeouts, Gordon led an 11-play, 74-yard drive that ended in a seven-yard touchdown pass to clinch a I-AA playoff berth for the Wildcats.

Gordon ended that game completing 39 of 62 for a school-record 460 yards and three touchdowns.

"He definitely has the ability to bring us back from any type of deficit," Villanova head coach Andy Talley said.

In the playoffs, Gordon and the Wildcats found themselves down 31-14 late in the third quarter against first round opponent Furman. Gordon led the Wildcats to 17 unanswered points in the fourth quarter and then orchestrated a game-winning 71-yard drive in 50 seconds to beat Furman at home.

In the second round, Gordon

broke his thumb late in the first quarter but continued to play and from that point on completed 22 of 26 for 189 yards and two touchdowns in his last career home game at Villanova Stadium.

"If he can walk this week, he will try to play for us because he's that type of player," Talley said.

Gordon is listed as questionable as the Wildcats face the top seeded McNeese State Cowboys this Saturday in semi-final action.

"We are not as talented as much as other teams in the nation or in our conference but Brett has

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